

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 are amended, and Claim 13 is newly added by the present amendment. Support for amended Claims 1 and 9 can be found in the originally filed specification, claims and drawings.<sup>1</sup> New Claim 13 recites substantially similar features as independent Claim 13, but is drafted to avoid interpretation under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Thus, no new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 3-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,780 to Levergood et al. (hereinafter Levergood) and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0032027 to Kirani.

The Office Action cites Levergood as disclosing the Applicant's invention with the exception of the client being a "mobile information terminal" and wherein "said unique identification information stored in said mobile information terminal and comprises information identifying a manufacturer of the mobile information terminal."<sup>2</sup> The Office Action cites Kirani as disclosing this claimed feature and states it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references to arrive at the Applicant's claims.

In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 9 and 13 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 1 relates a user authentication method for an authentication server which executes user authentication between a mobile information terminal and a content providing server interconnected by an open network. The method includes registering, from

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<sup>1</sup> E.g., specification, p. 17, l. 17-p. 20, l. 15; p. 24, l. 16-p. 28, l. 12.

<sup>2</sup> Office Action, p. 5.

the mobile information terminal, unique identification information corresponding to the hardware of the mobile information terminal with a customer database of the authentication server. Independent Claim 1 is amended to recite that the method further comprises, in part:

...presenting, to said mobile information terminal, a recommended menu including a plurality of official site access information for accessing predetermined content providing servers...

receiving, from said mobile information terminal, the unique identification information and a request for registering one of said official site access information for accessing said content providing server with a personal menu via the open network;

determining whether the said unique identification information received from said mobile information terminal is registered with said customer database;

sending a notification to said content providing server by which said requested site is produced, that starting of service provision for said mobile information terminal be permitted, if the unique identification information is found registered with said customer database in the determining step;

registering said requested official site access information with said personal menu after receiving an acknowledgement response of said notification from said content providing server...

Independent Claims 9 and 13, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1, 9 and 13.

As disclosed in an exemplary embodiment at Fig. 16; p. 17, l. 17-p. 20, l. 15; and p. 24, l. 16-p. 28, l. 12 of the specification, the authentication server first presents a “recommended menu” to the mobile information terminal from which at least one of a plurality of official site access information can be selected by a user. Once it is determined that the user is authorized to access the requested service, the service is registered with the user’s “personal menu.” It should be noted that the “recommended menu” is not modified or customized based on a user’s input – only the “personal menu” may be altered after user authentication is complete.

Turning to the applied primary reference, Levergood describes methods for controlling and monitoring client-server sessions over the Internet involving hypertext files. When a user selects a link directed to an access-controlled file, the server subjects the request to a secondary server which determines whether the client has an authorization or valid account. Upon such verification, the user is provided with a session identification which allows the user to access to the requested file as well as any other files within the present protection domain.<sup>3</sup>

Levergood, however, fails to teach or suggest the claimed features directed to “presenting... a recommended menu including a plurality of official site access information for accessing predetermined content providing servers... receiving, from said mobile information terminal, the unique identification information and a request for registering one of said official site access information for accessing said content providing server with a personal menu via the open network... and registering said requested official site access information with said personal menu after receiving an acknowledgement response of said notification from said content providing server,” along with all the additional limitations recited in amended independent Claim 1.

In contrast, col. 8, ll. 27-58 of Levergood describes that the server tracks access history within a client-server session and uses this history to inform the service provider about link transversal frequencies and link paths followed by users. Such information may be used to identify the most popular links to a specific page and suggest where to insert new links to provide more direct access. Levergood also describes the content server uses this information to customize user requested pages to include personalized content based on the stored history information.

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<sup>3</sup> Levergood, Abstract.

Thus, Levergood's system does not present *a recommended menu including a plurality of official site access information for accessing predetermined content providing servers* to the user; receive a unique identification information and *a request for registering one of said official site access information for accessing said content providing server with a personal menu via the open network...* and *register said requested official site access information with said personal menu*, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

More specifically, Levergood merely describes a process of customizing data contained in user-requested web pages, and fails to teach or suggest generating a “personal menu” by selecting an registering items from a “recommended menu” as defined in amended independent Claim 1.

Likewise, Kirani is relied upon only to assert the existence of an identification code in a mobile device and fails to remedy the above noted deficiency in Levergood. Therefore, none of the cited references, neither alone nor in combination teach or suggest Applicant's Claims 1 and 3-12 which include the above distinguished limitations by virtue of independent recitation or dependency.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons as those noted above, Applicant respectfully submits that new independent Claim 13 also patentably defines over the applied references.

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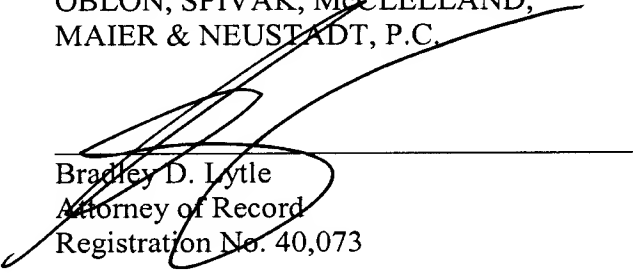
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1 and 3-13 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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